

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

However, some subcontractors may wish to restrict access to the proposals they attach to the RFP. This may be done for competitive ~~reason~~ reasons, preventing rivals from imitating them. For example, a subcontractor specializing in ~~flights~~ flight control systems for aircraft may attach a proposal to an RFP, and then restrict access to the customer and specified general contractors by means of password which is sent to the designated parties. The subcontractor may also want to allow access to non-rival subcontractors. Continuing the example above, the flight control subcontractor might allow access by subcontractors who specialize in radar or communications systems.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention may be implemented in both public and private electronic marketplaces. A public marketplace has both multiple buyers and multiple sellers and may be used for open competitive bidding, merchandising, or similar functions. A private electronic marketplace has only one buyer or one seller. For example, a customer may post a RFP on its web site. However, in order to access this web site, a participant (general contractor or subcontractor) needs to use a password. In the context of the present invention, the customer posting the RFP will send the necessary password to specific general contractors, which will allow the contractors to access the private web site and view the posted RFP. The general contractors may then in turn send the password to specific subcontractors. ~~alternatively~~ Alternatively, the customer may also send the password directly to subcontractors.